

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1046
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
INTER STATE WATER DISPUTES
C. SREENVAASAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the water disputes among various states are on the increase in the country in the absence of an effective National Water Policy;
- (b) if so, the details of water disputes still pending for settlement;
- (c) the reasons for not settling the said disputes so far;
- (d) whether another water dispute between Chhattisgarh and Orissa over the Indravati river is hotting up; and
- (e) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to settle all water disputes in the country ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) National Water Policy lays down broad guidelines for water resources development and management in the country. The mechanism for settling inter-State water disputes exists in the form of Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act, 1956. The Ravi and Beas Water Disputes between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Cauvery Water Disputes between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry were referred to Tribunals under the provisions of ISWD Act, 1956 in April, 1986 and June 1990 respectively. The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal submitted their first report in January, 1987. The Central Government and party States have sought explanations/guidance from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the ISWD Act, 1956. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991. Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is holding regular hearings for adjudicating the Cauvery Water Disputes.

(d) As per the agreement between Orissa and Madhya Pradesh (MP) in 1979 the State of Orissa shall ensure 45 TMC of water to flow down at the Orissa-Madhya Pradesh border in the Indravati sub-basin. The agreement does not stipulate the monthly distribution of annual quantum of 45 TMC. Besides, there is some natural flow across the Jaura-Nallah to Sabari river just upstream of Orissa-MP border. Consequently, there has been difference of opinion between the Government of Chhattisgarh and Government of Orissa with regard to monthly distribution of annual flows and construction of diversion structure across Jaura-Nallah and main Indravati river. While the construction of diversion structure has been resolved under the aegis of Central Water Commission, the monthly distribution of flows shall be submitted to Orissa and Central Water Commission after re-examination of their requirement by Chhattisgarh.

(e) The Central Government endeavors to resolve the dispute by negotiations failing which the dispute is referred to the Tribunal at the request of party States as per the provision of ISWD Act, 1956 for adjudication. The said Act has been amended on March 28, 2002 to provide for time-bound adjudication of disputes by the Tribunals. Also as per the amended Act, the decision of the Tribunal, after its publication in the Official Gazette, shall have the same force as an order or decree of the Supreme Court.